

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 20 July 2005. Responsive to the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-6, 13 and 14 have been amended and Claims 2, 11 and 12 have been cancelled.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chow, U.S. Patent #5,531,140 and Claims 2 - 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chow in view of Hoff et al., U.S. Patent #6,199,457.

Before discussing the prior art relied upon by the Examiner, it may be beneficial to first briefly review the structure of the invention of the subject Patent Application as now claimed. The invention of the subject Patent Application is directed to an extension structure. The extension structure includes a main body, where the main body has a receiving chamber formed therein and a circular shaft hole formed through a peripheral wall thereof in open communication with the receiving chamber. The structure includes a drive rod movably mounted in the receiving chamber of the main body and having an operation slot formed in an end portion thereof and disposed in aligned relation with the shaft hole of the main body. The drive rod has an oblique guide edge formed on a distal end of the operation slot. The extension structure further includes an elastic member mounted in the main body and urged between the main body and the drive rod, and a

rotation control member rotatably mounted in the shaft hole of the main body and rested on the drive rod, so that the drive rod is moved in the main body responsive to rotation of the rotation control member. The rotation control member includes a rotation body rotatably mounted in the shaft hole of the main body. The rotation body is formed with a recessed oblique guide face on one portion thereof disposed contiguous the oblique guide edge in a first position of the rotation control member and an arcuate peripheral wall on a remaining portion thereof. The rotation body being rotatable between the first position and a second position where the peripheral wall of the rotation body rests on the guide edge of the drive rod and thereby cams the drive rod to move distally. The rotation control member also includes a knob coupled to a top side of the rotation body and extending outwardly from the main body. The rotation control member further includes a circular drive section formed on a bottom side of the rotation body and received in the operation slot of the drive rod, and a circular enlarged head formed on a distal end of the drive section and extending outwardly from a peripheral wall of the drive rod and having a portion thereof in contact with the drive rod.

In contradistinction, while the Chow reference discloses an extension structure including a body 10, a rod 20 displaceable disposed in an axial bore 13 of the body, a spring 24 biasing the rod, and an actuator 30 engaged with the rod through an orifice 11 for moving the rod against the spring bias. The rod has a tapered surface 32 that engages

the rod so that the rod is moved responsive to a user depressing the actuator into the orifice, Col. 1, lines 63-66, and Claim 1. Thus, in order to retract the ball, a user must depress and hold the actuator in against the spring force applied to the rod.

Whereas, in the invention of the subject Patent Application, a user simply rotates the rotation control member to retract the ball, and can then use both hands to remove or install a socket. In the invention of the subject Patent Application, the rod is displaced between two stable states, and therefore the user is not required to apply a continuous force to the “actuator” when the ball is retracted. Nowhere does Chow disclose a rotation body rotatably mounted in the shaft hole of the main body, the rotation body being formed with a recessed oblique guide face on one portion thereof disposed contiguous the oblique guide edge in a first position of the rotation control member and an arcuate peripheral wall on a remaining portion thereof, the rotation body being rotatable between the first position and a second position where the peripheral wall of the rotation body rests on the guide edge of the drive rod and thereby cams the drive rod to move distally, as is now claimed. Therefore, as the Chow reference fails to disclose each and every element of the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed, it cannot anticipate that invention. Further, as the reference fails to suggest the unique combination of elements that form the invention of the subject Patent Application, it cannot make obvious that invention either.

The Hoff et al. reference fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Chow reference. The Hoff et al. reference is directed to a quick release mechanism for a socket drive tool that utilizes an actuator pin 55 to displace a link pin 40 disposed in an axial bore 25 of a coupling body 20. To release a socket a user pivots the actuator pin rearwardly and holds it against the bias force of a spring, that returns the actuator pin to the first position when released by the user. Thus, like Chow, Hoff et al. fails to disclose or suggest a rotation body rotatably mounted in the shaft hole of the main body, the rotation body being formed with a recessed oblique guide face on one portion thereof disposed contiguous the oblique guide edge in a first position of the rotation control member and an arcuate peripheral wall on a remaining portion thereof, the rotation body being rotatable between the first position and a second position where the peripheral wall of the rotation body rests on the guide edge of the drive rod and thereby cams the drive rod to move distally, as is now claimed.

As neither Chow, nor Hoff et al. disclose or suggest the combination of elements that form the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed, and in fact teach away from the structure of that invention, they cannot make obvious that invention

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Therefore, for all the foregoing reasons, it is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FOR: ROSENBERG KLEIN & LEE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David I. Klein".

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